

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9676

FROM USDEL 70

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON IMPRESSIONS

REF: STATE 164331

1. USDEL APPRECIATES "IMPRESSIONS" WHICH WASHINGTON HAS SENT US ON CURRENT STATE OF MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS. MOST OF THE COMMENTS REFLECT REACTIONS WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED. THIS MESSAGE, THEREFORE, WILL DEAL MAINLY WITH QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL.

2. I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CHARACTERIZE THE AMBIGUITY WHICH IS INHERENT IN THOSE FEATURES OF THE PHILIPPINE POSITION DEALING WITH MUTUALITY AS A "DICHOTOMY." IN A SENSE, WE ARE DEALING WITH A PLOY; BUT THERE ARE SOME GOP ELEMENTS WHO ACCEPT THE VERACITY OF THE PLOY. IT IS NOT RPT NOT A FILIPINO CHARACTERISTIC TO THINK THINGS THROUGH IN SYLLOGISTIC FORM TO A DISTILLED CONCLUSION. THEY CAN
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ENTERTAIN TWO ESSENTIALLY CONFLICTING VIEWS AT THE SAME

TIME BECAUSE IT IS PAINFUL TO THEM TO HAVE TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT INTO A DELIBERATE CHOICE. OUR TASK IS TO CAUSE THEM TO ENDURE THE PAIN OF MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE IN THE SEVERAL FIELDS DISCUSSED IN PARA 3 REFTEL.

3. THUS, I DOUBT PHILS TRULY WANT JOINT OPERATION OF SUBIC AND CLARK, BUT THEY ALSO DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT THEIR BASE CAMMANDER HAS A COSMETIC ROLE. WE HAVE TO BUILD SOME LANGUAGE INTO THE TEXT WHICH MAKES HIS TASK SOUND SUBSTANTIAL, BUT WHICH RESTRAINS HIM FROM HAMPERING OUR OPERATIONS. ROMUALDEZ LETTER CAME OUT OF A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND REFLECTS A LARGE MEASURE OF FILIPINO POSTURING. IT CAN, IN THAT SENSE, BE CONSIDERED ESSENTIALLY A TACTICAL MOVE. HOWEVER, AS IN ALL DEALINGS WITH FILIPINOS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TREAT IT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE AND GIVE AS SUBSTANTIVE AN ANSWER AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE ANSWERED MUCH OF IT ORALLY AND HAVE GIVEN THEM COPY OF JAPAN WHITE PAPER. SINCE WASHINGTON HAS HAD TEXT SINCE JUNE 21, I AM DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT ANSWER IS NOT YET IN PREPARATION.

4. ON QUESTION OF LABOR, WE STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH WASHINGTON VIEW THAT "RENEGOTIATION" OF BLA WOULD GREATLY PROLONG OUR TALKS. WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO "RENEGOTIATE" THE BLA. HOWEVER, A COUPLE OF QUICK FIXES IN THAT DOCUMENT COULD RETAIN AND RENEW ITS VALIDITY WHILE AVOIDING A PROLONGED DISCUSSION OF ARTICLES IN THE BASIC TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT. WE WILL CLARIFY OUR INTENTIONS BY A MESSAGE EARLY NEXT WEEK.

5. ON CRIMINAL JURISDICTION, YOUR COMMENTS SEEM TO IGNORE ENTIRELY THE EXTENSIVE DRAFT WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO MEET THE POINT OF YOUR MESSAGE. WE NEED AN ANSWER ON THIS SOONEST AND ARE DELAYING ACTION IN ABSENCE YOUR RESPONSE.

6. WE HAVE SENT YOU A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON TAXATION AND URGE THAT POSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BE REVIEWED TO GIVE MORE REALISM TO THE FACTS OF LIFE AT OUR BASES. WE HAVE A GREAT MANY PRIVATE ENTREPRENEOURS AMONG OUR FORCES WHO CONSTITUTE A TAX PROBLEM WHICH NEEDS TO BE BETTER
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CONTROLLED; WHETHER IT IS IN BLACK MARKETING, INVESTMENT IN THE STOCK MARKET, PART OWNERSHIP OF A BAR, OR DEALING IN REAL ESTATE. WE ARE NOT RPT NOT DEALING IN HYPOTHESES BUT ACTUALITIES.

7. FINALLY, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT LAST PARAGRAPH REFTEL REFLECTS A WASHINGTON VIEW THAT THESE TALKS SHOULD JUST BE PERMITTED TO DRAG ALONG OR PETER OUT, BECAUSE THE

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES LOOK DISCOURAGING. THIS
CONCERN IS REINFORCED BY THE EXTRAORDINARILY LONG TIME
IT TAKES TO GET OPERATIONAL ANSWERS TO OUR MESSAGES.
WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM AND SHARE THE FRUSTRATION. IT
MAY BE THAT WE WILL FAIL TO MEET THE JULY-AUGUST TARGET
DATE. IF SO, I WISH IT TO OCCUR BECAUSE THE FILIPINOS
REFUSE TO BE REALISTIC RATHER THAN BECAUSE WASHINGTON
REFUSES TO BE RESPONSIVE. HANG IN THERE WITH US UNTIL
AND UNLESS WE TELL YOU THAT THE TARGET HAS TO SLIP.
SULLIVAN

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